

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR, US
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR ON US-EC RELATIONS

1. IN SEPTEMBER 27 CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNS, ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR RAIMOND SAID HE HOPED PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN NEW YORK IN US-EC BILATERALS TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED. HE SAID THIS BECAUSE IN ALL CANDOR US DRAFT "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" CIRCULATED A FEW WEEKS AGO HAD POSED "GREAT PROBLEMS FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT-- FAR GREATER, FOR EXAMPLE, THAN RE-INTEGRATING FRANCE INTO THE NATO MILITARY COMMENT STRUCTURE." THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD A STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE US DRAFT, HE SAID, BECAUSE TO ACCEPT ITS "CONSTRAINING FRAMEWORK" WOULD PUT A SIGNATORY IN A SUBMISSIVE POSITION RATHER THAN MERELY TO ASSOCIATE ONESELF WITH MORAL AND POLITICAL GUIDELINES OF A GENERAL NATURE (WHICH THE FRENCH HAD THOUGHT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE EXERCISE). IN SHORT, THE US DRAFT REPRESENTED A TIGHTLY CONTROLLED POLICY FRAMEWORK WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTING THE OPTIONS OF SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS.

2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, RAIMOND SAID HE HAD HAD THE IMPRESSION OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS THAT THE US WAS ENGAGED IN A "MOST SUBTLE AND DELICATE" DIPLOMACY WHICH CALLED FOR A DIFFICULT BALANCING ACT AMONG THE VARIOUS POWER CENTERS OF THE WORLD. RAIMOND THOUGHT THE US BELIEVED THAT AS LONG AS IT CONTROLLED THE MOVES, DIRECTION AND TIMING OF THIS DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY, THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE RISK. HOWEVER, ELEMENTS OF
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SERIOUS RISK WERE INTRODUCED WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES, EVEN ALLIES, ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP ANALOGOUS BUT INDEPENDENT POLICIES. THUS, CONTINUED RAIMOND, THE US ATLANTIC CHARTER NOTION SEEMED TO REPRESENT AN EFFORT BY THE USG TO REASSERT "CONTROL" OVER ITS

ALLIES' EFFORTS TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD. FRANCE WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS OSTPOLITIK TO BE CONTROLLED BY ANY-ONE, HE ASSERTED. FURTHERMORE, FRANCE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A RESTRICTIVE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BECAUSE OF ITS WISH TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE FREEDOM OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

3. POL COUNS OBSERVED THAT RAIMOND'S COMMENTS SOUNDED LIKE THE OFT-HEARD FRENCH ALLEGATION OF US HEGEMONIC DESIGNS, WHICH IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. POL COUNS THEN DESCRIBED US REASONING FOR SUGGESTING A UNIFYING FRAMEWORK IN TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE EXTENT TO WHICH RAIMOND'S VIEWS REFLECT THOSE OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, BUT WE HAVE HEARD VARIANTS OF HIS COMMENTS FROM OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS AND OPINION MAKERS.

5. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
IRWIN

SECRET

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